

## The Art of Eric Carle - Painted Collages.

Instructor: Lyn Stanton

Dates: May 16 and 23

1:00-3:00

Online Via WebEx.

I LOVE Eric Carle Books. To me, his artwork is a perfect way to show the nature of an image. Everything we draw or paint, sculpt or mold, can be described using shapes, from the human body to butterflies. To create an image the way Eric Carle does takes lots of steps and is a great way to practice the planning process; how to think a project through from start to finish. This class will be in 2 sessions and will require the help of a grown-up. Kids as young as 5 can give it a go, and there really isn't an age limit. I am 37 and 2/3rds and I still love making this project, and I learn something every time.

In this lesson we will explore and practice the following art concepts:

- Drawing/making images using **Shapes**
- **Inverting** images (doing some things backward at first, so we really gotta use our noggins and think it through.
- Explore **Collage Art**.
- Learn the difference between and **Outline, Silhouette, and interior of a figure/subject**.
- Learn about **Foregrounds, Backgrounds, and Subjects**.
- Practice our **Compositional Planning**.
- Practice **Shadow and Highlight**.
- Learn about **Symmetry**.
- Learn about **Atmospheric Perspective, Scale, and Fading**.

You, will need some things...

- **A flat, comfortable space to work that can get pretty messy**, like, acrylic paint messy... like maybe outside, or put down A LOT of newspaper or a tarp if the artists are on the younger or messier side.
- **Drying Space** - Part of this project involves painting pieces of paper with acrylic paint and setting them out to dry to cut apart in the second session
- **Acrylic Paint** - Doesn't have to be expensive, in fact scholastic works best for this. Those little "folk art" ones from Walmart are great, or "basic" brand tubes. You will need maybe 4 oz. of the primary colors, plus white and black. 9You may wonder if you really have to use
- **Paint Brushes** -A variety of sizes and shapes is best for kids to explore the different mark-making abilities of the different tools, but really any brushes will do.
- Paper - really any paper will work, but ideally, 11 x 17 or similar wet media paper is best, that is, paper made for painting, but not watercolor paper specifically. You can just use regular 8.5x11 printer paper and it will work just fine.
- **Water Bucket** - For the brushes.
- **Rags** - I prefer an old cut up dish towel or t-shirt, but paper towels are perfectly fine.
- **Paint Pallet** - Paper plate, cookie tray lined with wax paper, or an egg carton.
- **Glue** - Glue stick or glue - I prefer to use a little liquid white glue in like a sour cream container, and I use a junkie paintbrush or q-tips to apply. I find that this method helps artists really get the little edges

secured. A regular glue stick is fine too, just bear in mind glue sticks run out fast! If you have mod podge, it's great as a top coat, but not necessary.

- **Scissors**
- **Mark - Marking Tools** - We will be adding to textures to our painted portions. You will need to get creative with how to make different textures. A fine-tooth comb for fur? A crinkled piece of tin foil for water? Gather some things (preferably recyclable things) to experiment with
- **Pencils**
- **Erasers**
- Optional: light cardboard for the base/background. I recommend a cereal box.
- Optional: Crayons/markers to add final embellishments

What you will actually be doing:

### Session 1:

In the first session, we will talk about the art of Eric Carle, and about his life a little bit. He's a pretty swell guy. I will point out some things in his pictures that I want you to think about. Then I will go over the process for the whole project: We will actually make 2 projects; a butterfly that could be hung from the ceiling or on the wall for practicing the technique, and then something of your own imagining with a background for a complete picture. The butterfly will just need a few colors and I will walk you through how to do that. Then we need to make a planning sketch of what we want to make for our finished picture, plan all the elements, choose colors and paint enough pieces of paper to later cut and assemble into the collage. We will end the first session there. Some people might take the whole 2 hours, some less, some more.



### Session 2: The Cutting

We will retrieve our dry pieces and sketches. We will start with the butterfly, I will show how to make a basic butterfly shape and we will warm up by cutting and assembling that one. Then, we will work to make our ideas come to colorful life by breaking the pictures into their shapes, cutting them out, and assembling them into a cool collage!